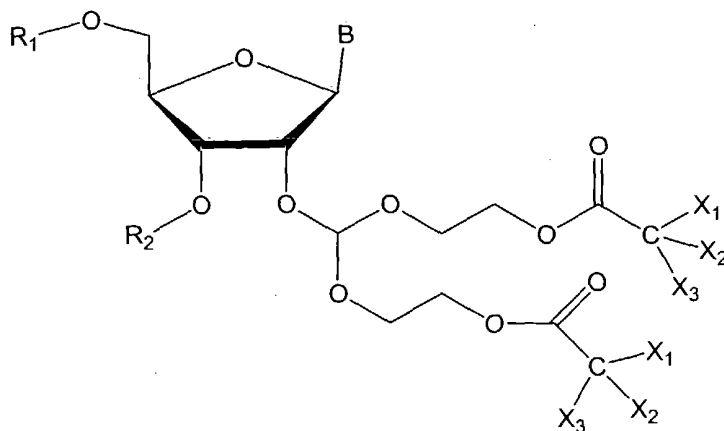


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are the same or different and are protecting groups or phosphorus moieties, B is selected from a purine, pyrimidine or modification thereof and X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, and X<sub>3</sub> are each independently an atom or a ligand.